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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF SCHOOL VISITORS
OF THE TOWN OF
Stafford, Conn.,
For the School Year Ending
JULY 15, 1915,
AND
TOWN HEALTH OFFICER



1915.
LEWIS McLAUGHLIN, PRINTER,
Stafford Springs, Conn.

Report of Town School Committee for the Year Ending July 15, 1915

The most valuable asset of any town is its schools; and when these are well kept, and well sustained, we may justly speak of that town, as prosperous. Such has been the character of the schools in our town the past year, that we feel justified in pointing to them with pride. Excellent as they have generally been, they have been better, even, than usual. They surely have been well kept, and well sustained by a most able corps of teachers; and it is not difficult to see that there have been improvements all along the line.

There is a great chance for better things yet, however, and we trust that plans already proposed, and in a measure begun, will so operate as to enable us to say of our schools, "There are none better anywhere." Of some of them, at least, we believe we can truly say that even now.

As there were many who seemed to think that expert supervision was the necessary adjunct of efficient school progress, your committee took measures to see what could be done in the matter. It was ascertained that as the law now stands, expert supervision could not be obtained unless the town bear the entire expense. With the number of schools we now have, we are excluded from the provision of the law permitting a union with some other town in the employment of a supervisor. Hence your committee did not feel justified in putting upon the town the expense necessary to meet the requirements of this special supervision. Furthermore, it seemed to your committee, that the present excellent condition of the schools would hardly warrant it.

A few years ago, a move was made to get greater uniformity as well as greater efficiency in the work of our schools. A Course of Study was prepared, and placed in

the hands of each teacher. They were required as far as possible to carry out that course. The move succeeded very well, and there was more uniform work; but as ability of the teachers differed, so differed results.

A move has now been started, and in a measure tried, whereby all the teachers in town will receive instructions in methods and ways of carrying on this uniform course. Monthly meetings are to be held, with the Principal of our High School in charge. And under his leadership we are hoping to bring about, in some measure at least, what we might look for under expert supervision. Then again, it will be the aim of your School Visitors to see that the methods and means proposed are duly carried out.

With the exception of one High School assistant and two or three teachers of the rural districts, the teachers throughout the town will be the same as last year. As these all proved themselves capable, painstaking and faithful, we feel assured that the schools will all be well and praiseworthy conducted.

The school buildings and appurtenances are in a most excellent condition throughout the town. A visitor to our town recently, said, "You ought to be proud of your school houses. I have travelled a great deal, and have never found school houses all of which were so good. The people of Stafford are evidently much interested in education." This surely is a noble compliment and we trust not altogether undeserved.

Respectfully submitted,

I. P. BOOTH, Chairman.

DISTRICT NO. 1 (PINNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL).

In this school, the teaching force was the same as that of the two or three years past. R. A. Booth, Principal, and in special charge of the Grammar Department; Miss Isadore

Dunham, Grades 5 and 6; Miss Blanche Shippey, Grades 3 and 4; and Miss Ruth Dunham, Grades 1 and 2. In this school the teachers all sustained their reputation for earnest, faithful work, and as the years go by, seem to increase in ability to do better work, and ever more of it. This school has the reputation of being among the best.

DISTRICT No. 5, (STAFFORDVILLE).

In this school, Miss Lottie Hatch, who had done most excellent work, as teacher of the Intermediate Department during the previous year, was placed in charge of the grammar Department, Miss Marjorie Eaton, the former teacher of that department having been transferred to a like grade in District No. 2. Here Miss Hatch proved herself as equal to the duties required of her.

To fill the place made vacant by the transfer of Miss Hatch to the Grammar Department, Miss Blanche Soule was engaged. Although Miss Soule had had but little experience as a teacher she filled the place well, and before the close of the year, showed that she was capable of doing excellent work.

The Primary Department was in charge of Miss Mary E. Hedges who had had the department the year before. Miss Hedges came to this school without much experience but rapidly improved, and she now ranks among the best.

DISTRICT No. 10, (LEONARD).

Miss Nettie Brown was the teacher of this school for the first term of the school year. She was teacher here the previous year. At the end of the fall term she resigned, owing to the ill-health of her parents, whom she felt needed such care, as she could not give them while teaching, especially as she could not board at home. Miss Ruth Hydel of Collinsville was engaged to take the place of Miss Brown. Miss Hydel proved to be one of the best of teach-

ers. Miss Margaret T. Guihan of Monson has been engaged for this school for the next school year. She comes to us highly recommended; so we hope the good work done here will be continued.

DISTRICT No. 2, (GRADES 6, 7 AND 8).

GRADE 6.—Miss Maud Chapman, teacher in this room, has been here now several years. She is a teacher of rare merit; her work is of a high order, and worthy of much praise.

GRADE 7.—Miss Ella Connor, the teacher in this room, has also been here several years. In her work she has ever been painstaking and faithful, accomplishing excellent results.

GRADE 8.—Miss Marjorie Eaton, the teacher in this room, entered upon her labors here at the beginning of the year. Although not an inexperienced teacher, the line of work called for, was, in a way, new to her and as is the case of every teacher, taking up work in a new place, it took her a while to adjust herself to the make-up of her pupils, and to get herself into full touch with their mental ability and requirements. But by her perseverance, energy, and natural teaching qualifications, the final results of her labors were very commendable.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL.

In this department of our school activities, the beginning of the year found us hopeful yet not a little doubtful. The work herein was to be in the hands of a new principal, and three out of four of his assistants to be were also new to the work—Miss Margaret Ballantine being the only one of last year's teaching force who remained with us this year. But all doubt was soon removed when this new teaching force was on the ground and actually at work.

Mr. F. S. Gorham who had been engaged as principal, proved to be just the man needed for the position. Miss

Ashton, Miss Ambler and Miss Lillian Welsh, the new assistants all soon made it plain that no mistake had been made in choosing them. So, with Miss Ballantine, who was already familiar with the work, as a sort of information bureau, all went on like clock work, and the results have far surpassed our expectations. The standard of the school has been raised, and all its former prestige has been restored. The school now ranks among the best in the state.

As Mr. Gorham, who has been so successful as principal for the past year, has been engaged to return, and since all, except Miss Ambler, who so ably assisted him last year, are to return, we are looking forward to one of the most prosperous year's work in the history of the school. With so able a corps of teachers, and a school so well furnished with needed apparatus, we see no reason why this may not be true.

While the number of pupils was much larger than usual, many more can be accommodated at no increase of expense. It is to be hoped that more will take advantage of this finely equipped school.

Respectfully submitted,

I. P. BOOTH, Acting School Visitor.

DISTRICTS NOS. 12, 13 AND 16

Mr. Chairman:—

In accordance with the usual custom I have the honor to present herewith a report of the schools in districts Nos. 12, 13 and 16.

It has been the constant aim of the committee to raise the standard of the rural schools. More than the usual attention was given these schools during the past year with the result that increased efficiency was noted along

all lines of work. The record of attendance is gratifying and absent and tardy marks for trivial causes are becoming less frequent. The teachers have given this matter careful attention and in this they have had the hearty co-operation of the parents.

There is a growing disposition on the part of the committee to be more liberal in the purchase of supplies and equipment for the small schools. Wall maps and globes have now been supplied in all of these schools. More seat work and charts are needed and we expect that these will be provided this year.

The buildings are all in good condition, and with the exception of new blackboards for the West Stafford schools there will be very little outlay on the buildings this year.

On account of the small number of pupils in the 16th district it was deemed advisable not to reopen the school at the beginning of the present year and to have the pupils transported to other schools. This is now being done at a considerable less sum than it cost to maintain the school and is giving entire satisfaction.

The teachers have appreciated all favorable conditions and it is a pleasure to report that they have been interested in their work and earnest in their endeavors to promote the welfare of the pupils and the advancement of the schools.

Many of the teachers in our rural schools are without special training. Such need encouragement and assistance.

They are therefore very earnestly urged to attend the teachers' meetings at the Springs, and when possible to visit other schools, and observe the work in schools employing trained teachers.

Your acting visitor again calls attention to the fact that only a small percentage of the parents visit the

schools. More frequent visits would be appreciated. Teachers should have the confidence and co-operation of parents if the best results are to be obtained.

We hope that during the coming year parents and others interested will visit the schools more frequently, inspect the work and become acquainted with the teachers. Kindly criticism, or merited appreciation will always be gratefully received.

M. D. O'CONNELL,
Acting Visitor.

DISTRICT No. 4, (CROW HILL).

There has been quite an increase in pupils in this school. Last year there were ten, now over twenty are enrolled. Miss Sadie M. Rice teacher, for the past and present year did excellent work and kept the interest of the pupils as well. This was her first year in an ungraded school.

DISTRICT No. 6, (WASHBURN).

The school in this district was taught the past year by Miss E. Mae Lathrop. This was her second year and her work was very commendable. She resigned at the close of the year and is succeeded by Miss Elizabeth O'Connor.

DISTRICT No. 15, (LULL).

The number of pupils in this district being small, it is harder to create an interest in studies than in large schools; but Miss Annie W. Herring a painstaking teacher succeeded in keeping her pupils interested. She has been transferred to the Crystal Lake district, Miss Lilliar Battige takes her place.

HERBERT A. GLAZIER, Acting Visitor.

To the School Committee

Gentlemen:—

I have the honor of submitting my first annual report as supervising principal of the elementary schools in the borough of Stafford Springs.

The school year opened with a total registration of 424 pupils registered in the different rooms as follows: Kindergarten, 59; Grade I A, 30; Grade I B, 41; Grade II, 49; Grade III, 51; Grade IV, 44; Grade V, 42; Grade VI, 39; Grade VII, 31; Grade VIII, 38.

Most of the rooms were taxed to their capacity and some were overcrowded.

The attendance for the year was good considering that there was more or less sickness during the winter term.

Children with adenoids, defective teeth and breathing, enlarged glands and similar diseases so common among children require a longer time to complete a course of study than those who have no defects. Anything which decreases retardation tends toward greater efficiency. For that reason medical inspection is being adopted by schools generally.

“A sound mind in a sound body” is an ideal condition for efficiency. That is what we are working for. If therefore, medical inspection is a help toward that end are we not justified in having it?

During the latter part of May we observed exhibition week, which showed the advancement of the pupils from Sept. to June, month by month. This was well attended by many parents and friends. It is a source of regret to principal and teachers that parents do not find time to visit our schools more often. Were teachers and parents better acquainted there would be less fault finding, less

adverse criticism and greater co-operation without which the work of a teacher is not entirely successful.

I wish to record here my appreciation of the spirit of co-operation on the part of the teachers in the work for the year. They have been a most willing, faithful and conscientious corps.

The one weak spot in the course of study was Physiology, which was neglected chiefly through lack of books. It is hoped that a complete set will be placed in the various rooms at the opening of school.

Drawing was introduced at the beginning of the school year and the scholars showed great interest in the work. Considering that the work was carried on by the teachers without the supervision of a drawing teacher, the results were very good and in some cases excellent.

Teachers, meetings were held at various intervals during the year and the introduction of plan books made the work very definite throughout the year.

Regular monthly meetings with a special speaker have been planned for the coming year, this will add much to the efficiency of the school.

In conclusion I desire to express to the members of the School Committee my sincere thanks and deep appreciation of their co-operation and support during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK S. GORHAM,

Supervising Principal.

No. of School Districts.	No. of school rooms in use.	No. of sittings	No. of weeks in school year.	Different schools registered in the year.	Average term registration	Average daily attendance	No. of Teachers Men.	No. of Teachers Women.	Average wages per month.		School Houses	
									Men.	Women.	Condi- tion of build- ing.	Value of build'gs and sites.
1, Pinney Gr'm'r	4	150	37	86	73	67.01	1	3	\$48	\$42.66	Good.	\$ 9,000
2, Springs	10	430	37	473	416	343.64	0	11		47.60	"	40,000
3, No school	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
4, Stafford Street	1	24	37	12	12	10.94	0	1		36.00	Fair.	350
5, Staffordville	3	90	37	89	73	60.36	0	3		37.33	Good.	3,500
6, Orentville	1	36	37	29	23	16.7	0	1		40.00	"	500
7, No school	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0		
8, Rockwell Hill	1	24	37	10	9	7	0	1		32.00	Poor	250
9, Hall No school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	"	50
10, Leonard	1	24	37	12	11	9.52	0	1		34.00	Good.	350
12, Crystal Lake	1	30	37	12	11	10.08	0	1		32.00	"	600
13, West Stafford	2	60	37	57	45	39.83	0	2		42.00	"	900
14, Crow Hill	1	24	37	26	18	14.1	0	1		32.00	"	600
15, Lull	1	24	37	7	7	6.53	0	1		32.00	Good	350
16, Patten	1	24	37	7	7	5.10	0	1		32.00		325
Town high school,	7	100	37	89	85	79.93	1	4	\$129.72	62.12	Good.	see 2d D
	34	1040	481	919	790	677.74	2	31	177.72	491.71		56,775

School year, 37 weeks. No. of days school was actually in session during the year, 180.

Children in school over sixteen years of age: High school, 35; other schools, 7.

No. of Pupils Registered in St. Edward's Parochial School 224. This makes a total of all children registered in any school of 1143.

School children enumerated in Stafford September 1, 1914, 1139.

Town School Committee.

M. D. O'CONNELL, Secretary,	Term expires	1915
HERBERT A. GLAZIER,	" "	1915
REV. PERCY V. NORWOOD,	" "	1915
REV. ISAAC P. BOOTH, Chairman,	" "	1916
FREDERICK J. GLOVER,	" "	1916
HENRY C. FISK,	" "	1917

Names of Teachers Employed.

Dist. No.	Teacher.	Grade.
	Frederick S. Gorham,	High School
	Margaret W. Ballantine,	" "
	Irene S. Ashton,	" "
	Lillian Welsh,	" "
	Alice M. Ambler,	" "
1	Ruth M. Dunham,	1 and 2
1	Blanche L. Shippey,	3 and 4
1	Isadore J. Dunham,	5 and 6
1	Ralph A. Booth,	7-8 and 9
2	Edith G. Cushman,	Kindergarten
2	Ethel Moore,	Kindergarten
2	Josephine Newell,	1 A.
2	Margaret M. Rafferty,	1 B.
2	Genevieve M. Hewett,	2
2	Edith B. Battige,	3
2	Gertrude Holt,	4
2	Ethel I. Rich,	5
2	Maud E. Chapman,	6
2	Ella C. Connor,	7
2	Marjorie B. Eaton,	8
4	Elsie M. Phillips.	
5	Mary E. Hedges, Blanche Soule, Lottie W. Hatch.	
6	E. Mae Lathrop.	
8	Bertha L. Belcher.	
10	Nettie J. Brown, Ruth C. Hydel.	
12	Ethel M. Davis.	

- 13 F. Eunice Bradway, Jennie Towne.
- 14 Sadie M. Rice.
- 15 Annie W. Herring.
- 16 Lillian R. Battige.

Lulu Ide,

Supervisor of Music

Changes for 1915-1916.

Florence M. Quilty,

Assistant in High School

- 2 Gertrude Ott,
- 4 Lucy Nicholson.
- 6 Elizabeth O'Connor.
- 10 Margaret Guihan.
- 12 Annie W. Herring.
- 15 Lillian R. Battige.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF
FRANK L. SMITH, M. D.,
TOWN HEALTH OFFICER

During the latter part of the month of August the following notice is mailed to each of the Health Officers of the state, by the State Board of Health. "The statutes require that on the first of September you make a report of your doings, to your town and file duplicate copies of this report with your County Health Officer and the State Board of Health." In compliance with the above, the following report for the year ending August 31, 1915, is hereby submitted.

Upon the drinking water and the milk supply of a community, depend to a great extent the general health of its members. As regards the former, but little can be said in the way of commendation as regards the out-lying districts, they being to a very large extent dependent upon wells for their supply of drinking water, and in many instances, the well, the cesspool and the privy are in far too close association. Of course public sewage systems are out of the question in the sparsely settled regions and we can only urge that the well supplying the drinking water be at a safe distance from the privy and from the drainage from the house and barn. The public milk supply is good, periodical examinations of the same being made by the State Laboratory from samples obtained by the local Health Officer from the milk men, as they are going their rounds, and these tests have resulted during the past year, as well as in previous years since the practice has been followed, in finding the milk up to a high standard of excellence.

In the matter of contagious disease, the town has been less fortunate than in some past years.

TYPHOID FEVER has been reported but once, that being a case at Stafford Village during the month of September;

this was a sporadic case, and its origin could not be traced. Most strict directions were given in regard to the disinfection of the stools and urine passed by the patient, and no further case occurred in connection with this one. It should be remembered that typhoid fever is not a "catching" disease, but is introduced into the system either through the food or drink that has become infected by germs from the excreta of the patient, which should never be thrown out upon, or buried in the ground or emptied into the privy vault, until they have been thoroughly disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA has prevailed to quite an extent, there having been seven cases in the town, and many more in the Borough. Those occurring in the town were two in September, two in January, one being at West Stafford and one at Rockwell Hill, one in April and one in May at Staffordville, and one in August at Orcutts. The wide spread divergence of these cases leads one to think that the disease must have been contracted in the borough, and probably from some one or more, "walking" cases, when the person nor their friends were aware that they had the disease. Diphtheria antitoxin was very generally used, and no further case occurred in the same family or locality, thorough disinfection and fumigation being carried out and quarantine strictly enforced in all cases.

MEASLES have prevailed extensively in the northeast part of the town, the first case occurring in the Hall district and was probably contracted in Worcester, Mass., where the patient had been visiting, from this place it worked along to Staffordville and the Hollow, there were twenty-seven known cases these occurring as follows: four in May, thirteen in June, five in July and five in August.

There were probably a good many more cases that were unreported. In this connection, it is well to mention that the law directs that, when no physician is employed, it becomes the duty of the house holder to report the case to

the town Health Officer, compliance with this law will be insisted upon in the future. Measles is not the harmless disease that many consider it, one hundred and fourteen deaths occurring from it, in a recent year in this state.

The matter of examination of the ice or water from some of the ponds from which it is cut for domestic use has been taken up the past year, and three or four such examinations made by the State Chemist, most of the water was found in fit condition for public use, in one case the water not giving a satisfactory result, a sample of the ice was sent for examination, and was found satisfactory for public use.

The school houses and out buildings have received their annual inspection, and have been placed in as satisfactory and hygienic condition as possible.



